

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, claims 1, 7, 14, 17, 20, 23, 39, and 41 are amended. Claim 40 is canceled.

Turning to the rejection of claims, it should be apparent that the present amendment, and specifically the amendments to the independent claims merit a withdrawal of the rejections.

First, turning to the patent to Brice (U.S. Patent No. 4,472,652), it is noticed that an aluminum layer of the disclosed device has oxidation. However, the device of Brice is really much different from the present invention. Specifically, the present invention is directed to the concept of inhibiting migration of metal between a plurality of layers. As such, the independent claims are amended to bring out this concept. For example, claim 1 is amended to recite that one of the layers, being metal that has a propensity to migrate the metal, has a propensity to migrate toward another of the layers. The hardening effect inhibits migration of the metal. Such a structural configuration is not present within the Brice device.

With regard to the Nakano patent (6,580,189), it is not exactly clear what the Examiner is considering to be a different metallization. It is queried whether the Examiner is somehow thinking that the wire has a different metallization. As such, in order to clarify the distinction of the present invention from the Nakano patent, it should be appreciated that claims 23, 39, and 41 are amended to include a

distinction directed to the presence of a layer. A layer is clearly distinct from the wire shown within the Nakano patent.


As such, it should be clear that none of the cited references satisfy the currently pending claims. Of course, if the Examiner still perceives some possible way to interpret the cited patents to read upon the claims, the Examiner is explicitly invited to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any impediments toward allowance of the subject patent application. However, in view of the present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the method claims are amended herein in concert with the amendments to the device claims. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner rejoin the claims to permit allowance of all of the claims for the single invention.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33923.

Respectfully submitted,

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